

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

Board 169249
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I. HEADING

DATE: November 13, 2001

SUBJECT: POLREP for the Lefton Iron and Metal Removal Site, East St. Louis, St. Clair County, Illinois

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POLREP #: POLREP #1

II. BACKGROUND

Response Authority: CERCLA (# ILD984809244)
NPL Status: Non-NPL
Latitude: 38°36'41"N (205 South 17th Street) 38°36'29" N (1901 South Converse Street)
Longitude: 90°08'55"W 90°08'49" W
State Notification: October 24, 2001
Start Date: October 24, 2001
Completion Date: May 30, 2002 (anticipated)

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

Time critical scrap steel and soil removal from a former scrap metal recycling facility.

B. Site Description

1. Site location

The Lefton Iron & Metal Site ("Site") consist of two (2) physically separated locations within the city boundaries of East St. Louis, Illinois. Lefton West, 205 South 17th Street, is bounded by railroad tracks to the northeast, 17th Street on the southeast, Brady Avenue on the southwest, and a commercial business to the

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northwest. Lefton East, 1901 Converse Avenue, is bordered by Brady Avenue on the northeast, 19th Street on the northwest, Converse Avenue on the southwest, and a residential area on the southeast

2. Description of threat

It has been determined that impacted soil from past scrap steel receiving activities create a hazardous situation for residents living near the Site. Contaminants of concern are primarily polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), lead and other heavy metals. The high levels of PCBs and lead in surface soil at concentrations considered hazardous, the Site's proximity to residential properties and other business requires immediate control and removal activities.

3. Site background

The Lefton Iron and Metal Site is an inactive scrap metal recycling complex that previously separated and sized ferrous and non-ferrous metals prior to sale and shipment to an off-site metal recycling (thermal) facility.

The Lefton Iron and Metal Site had previously received a complaint alleging that PCBs were present at the Site. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) was able to gain access and sample Lefton West and the area behind Lefton East locations. PCBs were detected at concentrations above 50 mg/kg. The IEPA was never able to gain access to Lefton East or a response by the PRP's and thus requested the assistance of the U. S. EPA.

It was noted during the Phase II site investigation, that electrical transformers and/or capacitors containing PCB laden oils had released the oils into the Lefton West soil matrix. Additionally, elevated levels of lead were detected within the soil at both locations. Also, several large piles of scrap steel and other heavy metals have been arbitrarily placed around and within the confines of both locations.

4. State and local actions to date

The Lefton Iron and Metal Site came to the U.S. EPA Removal Branch's attention through the Gateway Team. The Gateway Team funded the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to do soil lead screening in the City of East St. Louis. IDPH targeted old industries in its sampling efforts. The Gateway Team, through the direction of Noemi Emeric, convened an ad hoc group targeting lead as a contaminant of concern for East St. Louis. This group, which included St. Mary's Hospital, collected blood lead data from children in East St. Louis. The Removal Branch became involved based on the IDPH sample results showing high lead data in old industrial areas bordering residential areas (as high as 30,000 ppm) and the St. Mary's study showing children with elevated blood levels.

IV. SITE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Response activities to date

Work began on the site in October 2001 with the following:

- The existing Site security fence was repaired during the pre-mobilization phase of the project.
- An on-site security guard was contracted to maintain site security after regular business hours.
- An access road and parking area was constructed as to allow the prosecution of current and future Site activities.
- A metal recycling contractor initiated on-site scrap steel sorting, sizing, inspection and loading operation to facilitate the off-site transportation of scrap steel to a smelting operation.
- A segregation area has been created to aid in the on-site separation of tires, crushed and intact drum carcasses, compressed gas cylinders, and other miscellaneous articles.
- A designated (clean) area was identified for the purpose to facilitate scrap steel sorting and loading for ultimate transshipment to a thermal processing facility.

B. Planned Removal Activities

- Ongoing operations will process an unspecified amount of scrap steel for off-site disposition.
- Excavate, load and transport an unspecified amount of impacted soil to Subtitle Class "D" and "C" Treatment Storage and Disposal Facilities.

C. Next Steps

- Development of Site grid sampling plan to compliment existing data.
- On-site collection of various sampling media for potential hazardous identification/classification.

D. Key Issues

- None

V. COSTS

	<u>Cost to date</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>% Remaining</u>
ERRS	\$ 72,840.13	\$ 2,923,067.00	97.50 %
START	\$ 907.25	\$ 85,800.00	99.98 %
EPA	\$ NA	\$ 51,300.00	NA %
TOTAL	\$ 73,747.38	\$ 3,158,447.00	Approx. 98.74%

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based upon figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor. Other financial data, which the OSC must rely upon, may not be entirely up to date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.